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Greetings from the Executive Director

This past month, I traveled to the Pacific Northwest to attend the National Conference on Volunteerism and Service and to visit some of Washington's state and local public lands. The conference took place in Seattle over the course of two days. More than 2,300 people attended the show from across the country and included people who work with volunteers in a variety of ways, from non-profit and government volunteer programs to private sector initiatives. I shared with the attendees how easy it is to become involved in Take Pride, as well as the ways Take Pride can help publicize their events nationwide and support them with program materials.

After the conference, I met with representatives from nearby refuges and parks to discuss their involvement with Take Pride in America. It was nice to visit with Joan Howser-Crowe, the Washington State Parks volunteer coordinator, to thank and encourage her to continue to promote the message of Take Pride at events and venues throughout the state. In addition, Cullen Stephenson with the State of Washington Department of Ecology carved out time to discuss ways to involve litter cleanups and shoreline projects in Take Pride. I learned of the needs of the refuge managers and volunteer coordinators and spoke with them about how we can work together to try and meet their needs.



Michelle Cangelosi (center) helps plant vegetable seedlings with an elementary student and a senior at the Hampstead Garden event.

Lastly, I emphasized how critical it is to register upcoming events with the Take Pride program, as well as submit event materials requests and write-ups and photos after the events to gain publicity from the national program. Through both the volunteer conference and my other meetings, the trip to Washington state was successful in furthering the Take Pride program in that region.

This month, I also had the wonderful opportunity to see up close how one small town has rallied around the Take Pride program and involved elected officials, college students, youth and seniors to plant the Take Pride spirit in Hampstead, Maryland. See the full story in the Garden Spotlight!

I look forward to seeing and hearing about your summer full of volunteer projects.

Sincerely,

Michelle Cangelosi

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14, 2006
Take Pride in America
National Awards
<http://www.takepride.gov/awards/national.cfm>

September 16, 2006
International Coastal
Cleanup Day
<http://www.coastalcleanup.org/welcome.cfm>

September 30, 2006
National Public Lands Day
<http://www.publiclandsday.org/>

October 18, 2006
World Water Monitoring Day
<http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/>

Take Pride National Awards Update

Many thanks to all applicants who submitted nominations for the Take Pride in America National Awards. The deadline was June 16, and nominations are being reviewed by a panel of judges. Look for winner notification, ceremony details and other information about the National

Awards program. Mark your calendar for the National Awards Ceremony on September 14, 2006 in Washington, DC. Thanks again for so many great nominations!



GARDEN SPOTLIGHT

Students, Seniors Work in Spirit of Collaboration for Garden

On Tuesday, June 6, more than 100 Hampstead Elementary School third-graders hand delivered hundreds of vegetable seedlings to The Residences at Hampstead School, a senior living facility that once was home to the local elementary school in Hampstead, Maryland. The students grew the seedlings in their classroom and planted them in a newly designated 'Take Pride in America Garden', a vegetable garden at the Residences, which when harvested, will provide cucumbers, corn, zucchini and other vegetables for the more than 100 senior residents living at the facility.

America the Beautiful Fund, a Take Pride Charter Partner, donated vegetable seeds for the garden, which joins more than 3,500 Take Pride Gardens across the Nation.

Michelle Cangelosi, Take Pride executive director, presented Appreciation Certificates to the partnering organizations who made the project possible and recognized Hampstead Elementary School as the newest member in the Take Pride in America Schools program by presenting a certificate to Principal Theresa Ball.

Mayor Shoemaker, Jr. and members of the Hampstead

City Council were joined by a representative from Senator Mikulski's office and a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. Before the ribbon cutting for the garden, Mayor Shoemaker, Jr. delivered a proclamation for the City of Hampstead, Maryland, declaring June 6, 2006 "Take Pride in America Day."

Social work students at McDaniel College developed this project to bring the elementary students and seniors together, as well as town residents and the community in a collaborative effort to foster relationships between the two

generations and to instill a sense of community service in the students.

A big thank you to all the groups that worked to make this project a success!



Elementary students line the vegetable garden with the seedlings they carried from Hampstead Elementary School.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Deer Creek Students, Parents Participate in Beautification Day

Deer Creek Elementary School near Oklahoma City, Oklahoma celebrated a Beautification Day on their school grounds on Friday, May 19. Over six hundred parents, students, and community volunteers helped plant new flowers, trees, vegetables, and fruits in 'Antlerville,' their outdoor classroom. Volunteers also built paths out of stone so children in wheelchairs would be able to visit the outdoor classroom. Participants helped clean the wetlands and the environment surrounding the outdoor classroom. Deer Creek Elementary School participates in the Take Pride Schools program and won the 2005 Take Pride National Award in the Schools category—it's encouraging to see them continue to lend a hand to their school lands!



Students work together to lay a stone walkway to the outdoor classroom.

Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue Receives Funds for Burros



The Save the Mustang Fund has helped place over sixty wild horses and burros with equine rescue groups for permanent care since their announcement in April 2006 to distribute over \$200,000 in support funds.

One beneficiary of the fund is the Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue in Tehachapi, California. They have purchased 111 burros since February 2006, and most recently, they took delivery of 16 burros at the end of April. Two of the burros have since given birth to a rare white jack (male burro) and a beautiful grey jennet (female burro). Additionally, another group outside Franklin, Tennessee took delivery of 18 horses they purchased from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and will also receive support funds from the Save the Mustangs Fund.

To date, the Save the Mustangs Fund, a program of Take Pride, has raised the funds to be distributed to qualified non-profit wild horse and rescue organizations for assistance in providing long-term care and homes for the horses and burros. Qualified groups can apply for the funds when they purchase the saleable animals from the BLM. Visit www.savethemustangs.org for more information.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

National Trails Day Annual Cleanup Clears Over 7,500 Miles of Trails

On Saturday, June 3, National Trails Day celebrated its fourteenth annual cleanup. Hosted by the American Hiking Society, a Take Pride Charter Partner, over 1,200 events were held nationwide, and inspired nearly a million trail enthusiasts to flock to their favorite trails to discover, learn about and celebrate trails while participating in educational exhibits, trail dedications, gear demonstrations, instructional workshops and trail work projects.

All told, volunteers worked on 1,550 trails and contributed over 200,000 hours to the maintenance and construction of these trails.

Lisa Young of the Take Pride in America office spent the day on the trail in southern Nevada at Kyle Canyon in Spring Mountain State Recreation Area. The work was



Volunteers at a BLM Trails Day event in Roseburg, Oregon use a crosscut saw to clear the way from a fallen tree.

intense, but the crew accomplished a well-maintained hiking trail by the end of the afternoon. Together, volunteers picked up litter, removed large debris, replaced trail signs, moved boulders and trees blocking the trail, painted picnic tables in rest areas and planted trees to help keep hikers on the trail.

In the spirit of partnership, people from many different agencies were involved —volunteer firefighters from the U.S. Forest Service, BLM representatives, and other volunteers that the sponsoring agency, the Southern Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program, recruited for the day.

Volunteers were greeted in the morning with a fresh cup of coffee from Starbucks and rewarded after the work day with lunch from a local delicatessen. After lunch, a Congressional Record entry, submitted by U.S. Senator Harry Reid, was read by a local representative from his office. The Senator submitted the Congressional Record entry to recognize the activities across Nevada for National Trails Day.



Members of FATRAC scrape and paint a sign on the trail in Folsom Lake State Park.

The afternoon concluded with a Take Pride in America door prize giveaway.

At another National Trails Day site outside Sacramento, California, over 25 volunteers showed up to celebrate at the Folsom Lake State Park - Granite Bay unit on Sunday, June 4. The event was co-hosted by the Bureau of Reclamation, Take Pride in America, the Folsom-Auburn Trail Riders Action Coalition (FATRAC), a group of local mountain bikers, the California State Parks, and REI, Inc. in Roseville, California. The volunteers participated in trail maintenance including downed tree and brush removal, clearing blind turns, and kiosk painting/renovation. Volunteers enjoyed a barbecue, swimming, and bike riding after the event.

Preceding National Trails Day, on Thursday, June 1, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne designated 36 new National Recreation Trails in 24 states, adding more than 800 miles of trails to the National Trails System. These new trails join a network of more than 900 trails encompassing more than 10,000 miles.

Pricewaterhouse Coopers Hosts Third Annual Take Pride Cleanup

On Thursday, June 1, more than 500 energetic PricewaterhouseCoopers employees descended on the weeds, rust, exotic vegetation and litter in Anacostia Park, in the southeastern corner of Washington, DC. Even with the temperature near 90 degrees, the weeds never had a chance.

This was the third annual Take Pride employee workday hosted by Pricewaterhouse Coopers. By the end of the day, Piles of brush and limbs were gathered as the overgrowth of weeds and plants along the banks were removed. The riverfront had been transformed. The National Park Service chipper machines were overworked, the Urban Tree House looked

wonderful, signs and trash cans were freshly painted, and trees throughout the park were mulched. Volunteers and National Park staff at Anacostia smiled at a great day of accomplishments.

PwC employees help scrape and paint the garbage can lids as part of the clean up at Anacostia Park.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Good Sam Club Members Prepare Public Lands for Summertime Rush

From Alaska to Michigan, and Iowa to Florida, this year's Good Sam Club Annual National Cleanup Day registered over 3,000 cleanups for the nationwide event. This year's theme—"It's Your Land! Volunteer and Make a Difference"—encouraged members to help prepare the many roads, parks, schools and other public recreation areas for the crush of summertime visitors.

Here are a few highlights:

Northern Lites Chapter members in Wasilla, Alaska held their annual campground cleanup on Friday



Good Sam Club members gather to clean over 90 campsites outside Palmer, Alaska.

and Saturday, June 5 and 6. They cleaned the Mat-Su River RV Campground on the outskirts of Palmer, Alaska. Over 90 individual campsites were cleared of debris, campfire ashes and prepared for coming season.

Although other Good Sam gatherings were smaller, their work was just as effective as they contributed toward this nationwide effort. On Saturday, May 20, the Eager Beavers from Albion, Michigan hosted their national cleanup. They began the day by attending Michigan's Spring Samboree held in Marshall.

After morning meetings, coffee and social hour, the Eager Beavers headed back to Albion, shed their chapter vests and donned reflective vests for the afternoon of work. Even though their numbers were limited because most members were still 'south for the winter', they worked to fill nine garbage bags with trash collected along a one-mile stretch of Michigan Avenue.



Members of Sassy Sams gathered enough trash to fill 10 bags at the Rodman Campground and Recreation Area.

Again this year, Sassy Sams, a chapter in Palatka, Florida, participated in the annual National Cleanup Day. This year, the cleanup was Thursday, June 1, at the Rodman Campground and Recreation Area in Palatka, which is part of Florida Greenways and Trails.

Ranger Brad Merry and his staff were very supportive and helpful as seven of the Good Sam chapter rigs collected ten large bags of trash, mainly in and around the public boat launch area.

Take Pride Staff Update

Take Pride is proud to announce the addition of new staff member **Pat Kennedy**. Pat joins us from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as the new Program Assistant and Office Manager. **Lisa Young** is now the Assistant Director of Events and Awards.

New Take Pride School!

Clifton High School in Clifton, NJ
Principal William J. Cannici

Thank you...

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride." Please keep sending us articles and photos at TakePride@ios.doi.gov for future newsletter editions or for publication on our website.



Register Your Public Lands Site NOW!!

Even though National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is more than two months away, the time to register your public lands site is NOW! All public lands, including local, state and Federal lands, are eligible to participate in the largest day of volunteering on public lands across America. Take Pride is proud to partner with NPLD for the third consecutive year and offer all sites Take Pride event materials including banners, brochures and bumper stickers. Additionally, all registered sites will receive the NPLD 2006 commemorative poster, as well as promotional posters and brochures to promote their local event. Visit http://www.npld.com/managers/register_a_site.cfm to register an event site and visit www.TakePride.gov to register your site to receive Take Pride event materials.